

SPEAKER LUEDTKE PRESIDING

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Record your presence for quorum. Record the presence.

CLERK: Quorum present, Mr. President.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: We'll continue with the resolution after we have completed the special order on LB 33. Senator Koch, I believe if you are ready, we will proceed then with an hour on LB 33.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 33. The title has been read. There were two amendments to the bill which both have been adopted. There are at this time no further amendments pending.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Bereuter, did you wish to speak? Your light is on.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I did have some questions for Senator Schmit. I think that if it's OK, I'll ask to be put on the list later when he returns.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Until Senator Schmit arrives; this is on LB 33. Senator Koch, did you have anything additional at this time?

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body. It's obvious that a number of members are still absent and those who may wish to speak and address themselves to the intent of the legislation. But in the few moments I have, I would merely advise the body that there are several amendments that will be added to LB 33 on E & R. One of them pertains to a hold harmless to certain schools because of some problems they have with uniform assessments in their counties which would assure them that a year beyond the next year, that they would receive no less than the amount of aid that was computed for the next fiscal year of 77-78. This, again as I say, is due to the fact that we know that assessments throughout the state of Nebraska have lagged and some are just now getting around to it and as a result, some schools are being penalized. This is unfortunate. The other amendment that I will offer on E & R is the amendment that Senator Murphy alluded to the other day that allows schools a number of days to reply so that they are not penalized in state aid dollars for not furnishing their fiscal report to the Department of Education for the purposes of computing state aid. Those are the items. We can philosophically discuss state aid for days. It always gets down to tax dollars. I think it's unfortunate that we talk more about taxes than we do about the needs of education. I would remind you again that the purpose of state aid is to provide the school systems of Nebraska a comparable financial base. I think it's to our discredit as members of this body when we allow some school districts to provide efforts 12 times greater than others and try to provide the same dollar for education. If you check the statistics, this is obvious, that where one school district can raise \$75,000 one mill and yet another school district of approximately the same size who can raise somewhere in the neighborhood of \$6 or \$7,000 with one mill. Therefore, that district with the poor financial background, the efforts of those people are far greater in trying to provide a comparable program. You also, if you'll look in your handouts, you'll notice there was an excellent article